

REMARKS

Claims 11-14, 20-45, 51-54, 56-69 and 71 are pending. Claims 11-14, 20-35, 46-57, 59-61, 63, 65, 67 and 71 have been withdrawn from consideration. Claims 36, 37, 41, 42 and 58 are rejected. Claims 38-40, 43-45, 62, 64, 66, 68 and 69 are objected to. Claims 36-40 are amended. Support for the amendments can be found throughout the application, for instance in the specification and claims as originally filed. No new matter is added. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of all rejections.

Claim Objections

Claims 38, 39 and 40 are objected to. Applicants respectfully point out that the objection is moot in view of the amendments indicated herein.

Claims 38-40, 43-45, 62, 64, 66, 68 and 69 are also objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim. Applicants respectfully submit that this objection is also moot in view of the amendments indicated herein.

Applicants urge withdrawal of all objections.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. §102/103

Claims 36, 37 and 58 are rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Vogel et al. (U.S. Patent 5,102,771).

Claims 41 and 42 are also rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being obvious over Vogel et al.

It is alleged that Vogel et al. teaches a polymer of itaconic anhydride and tetrahydropyranyl methacrylate according to the claimed invention.

Applicants respectfully disagree. The present invention as set forth in independent claim 36 concerns a radiation sensitive material comprising: a copolymer including itaconic anhydride which is expressed by a formula, as claimed, a unit structure including an alicyclic structure or an aromatic structure; and a unit structure which generates an alkali soluble group in the presence of an acid; and a substance generating an acid by application of radiation.

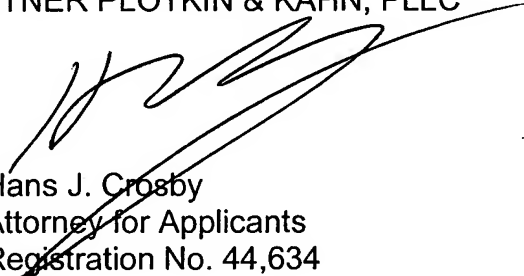
Applicants respectfully submit that no invention as claimed is taught or suggested by Vogel et al. Applicants wish to emphasize that one object of the claimed invention is to improve the adhesion of radiation sensitive materials that include alicyclic groups to substrates. As described at page 2 of the application, radiation sensitive materials including alicyclic or aromatic groups typically lack adhesiveness and are rigid, due to the inclusion of the alicyclic or aromatic groups. However, as described at page 34 of the application, when itaconic anhydride is introduced into the radiation sensitive material, adhesion of the radiation sensitive material to the substrate may be greatly improved due to the strong polarity of itaconic anhydride. The improved adhesion is especially effective when itaconic anhydride is combined with alicyclic or aromatic groups. Accordingly, the claimed radiation sensitive material requires a copolymer including itaconic anhydride and a unit structure including an alicyclic structure or an aromatic structure. In contrast, Vogel et al. contains no disclosure regarding such benefits of itaconic anhydride. Vogel et al. also fails to teach or suggest a copolymer including itaconic anhydride and a unit structure including an alicyclic structure or an aromatic structure, as claimed, in a radiation sensitive material. Thus, in that Vogel et

al. fails to teach or suggest each and every element of the claimed invention, Applicants urge withdrawal of all rejections.

In view of the amendments and remarks above, Applicants submit that this application is in condition for allowance and request favorable action thereon.

In the event this paper is not timely filed, Applicants hereby petition for an appropriate extension of time. The fee for this extension may be charged to our Deposit Account No. 01-2300, along with any other additional fees, which may be required with respect to this paper referencing Attorney Docket No. 108077-00001.

Respectfully submitted,
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